

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal. ~~The method according to Claim 1 wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal selector signal equals strong foreground.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal. ~~The method according to Claim 1~~

wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~thea~~ 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal~~ selector signal equals strong background.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

- (a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;
- (b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and
- (c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal, ~~The method according to Claim 1~~

wherein creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~thea~~ 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels ~~then multi-bit then its multi-bit select signal~~ selector signal equals if ~~thea~~ center class is darker then strong foreground else strong background.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a binary mixed raster content selector signal for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising the steps of:

- (a) creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;
- (b) filtering the multi-bit selector signal;
- (c) binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal;

- (d) determining if a pixel is white ~~then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal selector signal equals strong background or foreground; else~~
- (e) determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white ~~then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal selector signal equals strong foreground or background; else~~
- (f) determining if the pixel is black ~~then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal selector signal equals strong foreground or background; else~~
- (g) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit then its corresponding multi-bit select signal equals strong background or foreground; else~~
- (h) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels and the center pixel belongs to a darker class then the multi-bit ~~select signal selector signal~~ is strong foreground or background; else
- (i) determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels and the center pixel belongs to a lighter class then the multi-bit ~~select signal selector signal~~ is strong background or foreground; else
- (j) multi-bit selector equals a weak signal.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

- (a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;
- (b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and
- (c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal. ~~The system according to Claim 9 further comprising~~

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if a 3x3 neighborhood contains white ~~then multi-bit~~ then its corresponding multi-bit select signal~~selector signal~~ equals strong foreground.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

(a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal, The system according to Claim 9 further comprising

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if the 3x3 neighborhood contains black ~~then multi-bit~~ then its corresponding multi-bit select signal~~selector signal~~ equals strong background.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for image compression of a full color source image defined by a plurality of pixels comprising:

(a) means for creating a multi-bit selector signal that encodes the direction and strength of edges;

(b) means for filtering the multi-bit selector signal; and

(c) means for binarizing the filtered multi-bit selector to produce a binary mixed raster content selector signal, The system according to Claim 9 further comprising

wherein the means for creating a multi-bit selector signal further comprises the step of determining if ~~the~~ 3x3 neighborhood contains exactly 2 classes of pixels ~~then multi-bit~~ then its corresponding multi-bit select signal~~selector signal~~ equals if ~~the~~ center class is darker then strong foreground else strong background.